

Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:



Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Smart-Key Payment for Parking Meters

Overall goal:

To raise parking meter revenues by providing more payment options, to improve the enforcement and service of meters, and to provide more payment flexibility to users.

Technical approach:

New parking meters accept coins, tokens and electronic keys. The keys work like a debit card: they are programmed with a certain value when purchased which is decremented as they are used for parking. The amount of money deducted from the key each time it is used is determined by the number of times the key is turned in the meter. The keys can be reprogrammed at a kiosk. A microchip in each meter tracks the amount and rate of collection, allowing pick-ups to be conducted only when needed, as well as the times when parking enforcement is most critical.

Current status:

In West Hollywood, 500 smart-key meters were initially installed to replace traditional coin and token meters. The city had intended to replace the remaining 1,200 meters over a period of several years but accelerated the process due to the popularity of the meters. All of the meters have now been replaced.

Location / geographic scope:

The meters could be used in any area where parking meters are used. A kiosk for purchasing keys and parking time must be easily accessible.

Agencies involved:

The City of West Hollywood chose to purchase the meters from Duncan Industries.

Cost information:

The meter mechanism, not including the housing, costs about \$190, about \$25 more than a coin-only meter. Other components include hand-held computers for downloading information from the meters and a kiosk for



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Key contacts:

dispensing and reprogramming keys.

Have goals been achieved?

Duncan Industries: 1-800-338-6226

Revenues from parking meters rose about 5 percent in the first year of operation, although this is partly attributable to more coin options - the previous meters only accepted quarters. The program was immensely popular with local businesses, which requested that all the meters be replaced to allow key use.

Solution timeline:

This solution has been implemented.

